

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2020

The Office Suite HD Video Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehez at 7:38 p.m.

The **ROLL CALL** was read by Ms. Potvin. The following officials were present: Mayor Nehez and Councilpersons Nick Magistrelli, Jenn Domzalski, Gary Vojtush, and Alan Hipps. Also present for the meeting were Law Director Brad Bryan, Finance Director/Clerk of Council Jennifer Potvin, Police Chief John Zolgas, Fire Chief Jason Buss, Service Department Superintendent Jason Walters, and Engineer Rich Wasosky.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the Minutes for the August 26, 2020 Council Meeting was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The August 26, 2020 Minutes were approved.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

Mayor Jesse Nehez – Mayor Nehez reported that Dollar General opened its new store today.

Finance Director, Jennifer Potvin – Ms. Potvin stated the Village's health insurance agent, Mike Troyan, is present at the meeting to discuss issues related to renewal of the Village's health insurance coverage. Mr. Troyan advised the Village's dental and vision coverage providers have offered to renew coverage for an additional one year term at the same rates. Medical Mutual, the medical insurance provider, issued a 16.7% rate increase renewal quote. Mr. Troyan was able to negotiate that offer down to an 8% increase that is conditional on the Village accepting the quote at this time without shopping its coverage to other providers. MMO asked for a response to its offer by last Friday. Mr. Troyan advised MMO that deadline was not realistic because Council needed to authorize acceptance of the offer and would not meet until this evening. Mr. Troyan stated he is recommending that the 8% offer be accepted by the Village. That recommendation is based upon the following factors: (1) the Village's paid claim experience over the past two coverage years that would make it difficult to receive a better quote from other providers; (2) the Village has a grandfathered plan under the Affordable Care Act, that status would be lost with a move to another insurer, and no competing insurers will be able to match the Village's current benefit plan; and (3) increases in the annual cost of care in the marketplace are averaging between 9% and 11% this year. Mr. Troyan advised the 8% increase would cost the Village an additional \$51,700 for the next coverage year. Mr. Bryan stated the Union Contracts do not require the Unions to agree to health insurance cost savings measures unless the annual increase is 13% or higher. The coverage year expires on October 31, 2020, and negotiations for the new collective bargaining agreements will not start until December. Mr. Bryan stated if Council desires to accept MMO's offer, it should make a motion to do so this evening so that Mr. Troyan can then advise MMO of the Village's decision. Once the new rate sheet based upon the 8% renewal is received from MMO, Council can then formally authorize the Mayor to enter into the new coverage agreements at the next Council Meeting. Mr. Vojtush made a motion to accept the MMO offer that was seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The motion was approved.

Engineer, Rich Wasosky – Mr. Wasosky stated the Ledge Road/St. Rt. 8 traffic signal pole is expected to be delivered before the end of this month. Mr. Wasosky next discussed the surface flooding the Village is experiencing in the area of Rt. 8 at the Plaza main entrance during severe rainfalls. As a partial solution, Mr. Wasosky is recommending the installation of a twelve inch wide trench drain across the Plaza exit driveway. He is also recommending placing an ODOT Standard No. 3 Catch Basin on Rt. 8 just north of the main Plaza driveway. Mr. Wasosky stated the deadline for Issue 1 and Issue 2 District 8 grant and loan applications has been extended to November 4, 2020. He needs to know if the Village wants to apply for any grants or loans under those programs by the next Council Meeting so that he would have time to prepare the items necessary for the applications. He has investigated malfunctions with the Rt. 8 and Meadowlane and the Fire Station driveway traffic signals. The loop detector for the Meadowlane signal needs to be replaced. The signal currently works, but it is operating on a fixed time schedule, which is not very efficient. Mr. Wasosky stated the Village plans on replacing the loop detector next year. Mr. Vojtush asked how much that detector costs. Mr. Wasosky stated \$3,000 to \$3,500. Mr. Wasosky reported the Fire Station signal was activating without any vehicles being present. Those issues might have been caused by sun glare, shadows, or heavy rain. The signal is now working properly. He also reported the EPA has suspended its municipal audits during the pandemic period.

Law Director, Brad Bryan – Mr. Bryan presented the August 2020 Village Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursal Report to Council. A motion for acknowledgement of receipt of the report was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Hipps. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The motion was approved.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Chief John Zolcus – Chief Zolcus stated he emailed the Mayor and Council a copy of his report and asked if anyone had any questions. Chief Zolcus stated he would like to move forward to purchase the new 800 frequency police radios in order to transition to the 800 system as required. Ninety Thousand Dollars was budgeted for this expense this year. The quote for the twenty radios at the State bid price is \$109,432.22. It is possible that the Department will purchase a few less radios this year and buy the rest of the needed radios next year if that makes financial sense. Mr. Vojtush made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Domzalski to authorize the purchase of up to 20 radios from Motorola Solutions/ B&C Communications for an amount not to exceed \$110,000. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The motion was approved.

Fire Department, Chief Jason Buss – Chief Buss stated his report was sent out and asked if anyone had any questions. Chief Buss stated the new storm siren will be delivered within the next two weeks. He will work with Mr. Wasosky to determine the best location to mount it.

Service Dept., Jason Walters– Mr. Walters also discussed the Rt. 8/Plaza entrance surface water flooding issues. He is also recommending the installation of a trench drain in the area described by Mr. Wasosky. The project will cost up to \$13,000. Ms. Domzalski made a motion to authorize an amount not to exceed \$13,000 to be expended on the materials for and installation of the trench drain. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vojtush. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The motion was approved. Mr. Walters

thanked Council and expressed his support for providing the Police Department with a new building at some time in the near future.

REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission, Mr. Hipps – No report.

Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez – Mayor Nehez stated the Recreation Board did not meet on September 2, 2020 due to a lack of a quorum.

Cemetery Board, Mayor Nehez – Mayor Nehez stated the Cemetery Board has not met recently, and there is nothing to report.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee, Mr. Magistrelli – No report.

Roads and Public Works, Ms. Domzalski – No report.

Health and Welfare, Mr. Czerr – Mr. Czerr was not present. No one else on the Committee had anything to report.

Wages and Working Conditions, Mr. Vojtush – No report.

Fire and Safety, Ms. Noack – Ms. Noack was not present. No one else on the Committee had anything to report.

Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps – No report.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. 2020-32, An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Property Donation Agreement with Debra Boose, Executor of the Estate of Jean M. Kino, and Accept the Donation of Real Property Known as 10414 Electric Boulevard to the Village (First Reading)

The Resolution was read by title by Mr. Bryan. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The motion was approved. A motion to pass the Resolution was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The Resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 2020-36, An Emergency Resolution Designating Law Director Bradric Bryan as the Public Records Act Training Designee for 2020 for Mayor Nehez, Nicholas Magistrelli, Keith Czerr, Renell Noack, Gary Vojtush, Alan Hipps, and Jennifer Domzalski (First Reading)

The Resolution was read by title by Mr. Bryan. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Magistrelli and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-


yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The motion was approved. A motion to pass the Resolution was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. Roll call vote: Mr. Vojtush-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Ms. Domzalski-yes. The Resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Magistrelli requested a moment of silence to honor City of Cleveland Police Detective James Skernivitz, who was killed recently in the line of duty. Mr. Magistrelli stated he had known Officer for the past 25 years. After the moment of silence, Mr. Magistrelli wished the best of health to the Village's first responders and asked for them to stay safe. The Mayor reported that Ms. Noack was unable to attend the meeting due to the death of a family friend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of the motion; none were opposed. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Approved by Council.



Jennifer Potvin, Clerk of Council